

Effective: October 1, 2002**Supersedes:** Initial Issue37.00 Winter Operations - Winter
Weight Restrictions
37.05 Frozen Road Declaration**By:** Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

Page 1 of 3

A. Authority

Under Wis. Stats. Section 348.175, when the department determines that the state highways are frozen to the extent that no damage to them may result by the transportation of peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise or abrasives or salt for highway winter maintenance in excess of the limitations under Wis. Stats. Section, 348.15, the Department shall declare that particular highways or highways within areas of the state are eligible for increased weight limitations.

It is the responsibility of the officers or agencies in charge of maintenance of highways to make such a declaration, according to Wis. Stats. Section, 348.175. The bureau of highway operations can make this declaration only with regard to the state trunk highway system. The Frozen Road Declaration for county or local roads must be made by the local agency having maintenance authority of those roadways.

B. Frozen Road Declaration

To comply with Wis. Stats. Section 348.175 as amended, the department shall make the following declaration. (When it is implemented statewide):

Pursuant to Section 348.175, Wisconsin Statutes, the Department of Transportation declares that all highways of the state trunk highway system only are eligible for increased weight limitations from December XX, 20YY until March ZZ, 20YY. The declaration may be revoked earlier when conditional warrant. All state trunk highways are included, except the national system of interstate and defense highways (NOTE: I-39 from Wausau to the I-90/94 interchange near Portage is a part of this declaration and subject to the 98,000 pounds gross weight) and any state trunk highways where special weight restrictions have been imposed.

Eligibility for increased weight limitations is restricted to vehicles hauling peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise or abrasives or salt for highway winter maintenance. For legally licensed vehicles hauling these loads, no special permit is required during this period.

The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle shall not exceed 23,000 pounds, or for two axles less than seven feet apart, 38,000 pounds, or for groups of three consecutive axles not less than nine (9) feet or more than thirteen (13) feet apart, a weight of 12,000 pounds more than permitted in Section 348.15(3)(c),

stats. This 12,000 pounds includes the 4,000 pounds provided for in Section 348.15(3)(br), Stats.

The gross weight imposed on the highway by all axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed 98,000 pounds.

* Footnote: The dates listed for the starting and ending of this declaration should be reviewed annually based on the forecasted weather conditions. Dates should be adjusted to correspond to a Monday, closest to December 15, starting date and a Sunday, closest to March 1, ending date of the declaration.

When it is deemed to be appropriate, the starting and ending dates of the Frozen Road Declaration may be staggered from south to north or north to south within the state depending on local road conditions. A map showing the highways designated as the east/west dividing line shall be developed and posted at the Department's Internet web site.

C. Procedure

1. By mid-December of each year, the bureau of highway operations shall distribute the Frozen Road Declaration.
2. The Declaration should be sent to the Division of Business Management, Bureau of Management Services Purchasing Unit and the Office of Public Affairs so that it may be published in the official state newspaper and other major state newspapers, and a press release may be prepared and distributed.
3. The Declaration shall be published at least two weeks before the effective date.
4. If at any time that the Frozen Road Declaration is in effect, the department determines that the period should be ended, extended or reduced, official notice of the change should be published as far in advance of the effective date as is practical.
5. The Frozen Road Declaration normally should will end on approximately March 1st of each year.

D. Distribution of the Frozen Road Declaration

In addition to the offices listed in C.2. above, the following should be notified by the Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development, bureau of highway operations of the declaration on an annual basis:

1. District Chief Systems Operations Managers
2. County Highway Commissioners and County Sheriff s Department

3. Division Administrator, Division of Transportation Districts
4. Division Administrator, Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development
5. State Safety Engineer for Highways
6. Division of Motor Vehicles - Bureau of Vehicle Services, Motor Carrier Services Section, Permit Unit
7. Division of State Patrol
8. Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin (T.P.A.)
9. Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association
10. Forest Industry Safety Training Alliance (F.I.S.T.A.)
11. Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association

A copy of the declaration shall be placed as an official notice in the official state newspaper and in other major newspapers throughout the state. An affidavit of publication should be requested when the declaration is published.

A copy of the declaration shall be posted on the department's Internet site at:
http://www.dot.state.wi.us/dtid/bho/weight_rest_prog.html